

Rogue Community College Library Web Page <http://learn.roguecc.edu/Library/>

Accessing databases from off-campus

Access online resources off-campus with your current RCC computer log-on.

Checking out materials

Current RCC student Library Card numbers are attached to the back of your student ID card. Library cards expire at the end of each term.

Determining your Information Need

Background questions ask for **general knowledge** of a subject. **Secondary sources** such as textbooks, reference encyclopedias, books and review articles can provide relevant and reliable answers quickly.

Foreground questions ask for **specific knowledge** one can apply to a subject. They often require **primary sources** such as scholarly journal articles accessed through databases such as EBSCOhost and LexisNexis Academic.

What is a primary source?

A primary source is a document or record which reports a study, experiment, event or other phenomenon firsthand. Primary sources are detailed reports of the results of original research.

Determine your Search Vocabulary

Your search vocabulary consists of the subject headings, keywords and key phrases you will use in your search. It is useful to identify main concepts for both background and foreground questions.

Choosing & Using Databases

What is a database?

A **database** is a collection of individual **records**. Each **record** is composed of several **fields**, such as author, title, source/publication, subject heading.

Why are library databases better than Google?

These subscription resources provide one-stop shopping for scholarly literature, popular and trade magazine articles, and other authoritative information. You can research and find information you need with less effort and less time!

The Web includes a great deal of information, but it can be very difficult to find quality information and many resources will not be available full-text without a substantial charge.

Virtual Reference eLibrary

General knowledge. Helpful in defining and narrowing a topic.

Suggestion: Wikipedia might be a useful place to find an introduction to a subject, but you should not cite it for a research project. Wikipedia editors link to other "valid" information sources that can prove useful and include these in the References and Bibliography section.

Book Catalogs

General knowledge. Books provide an overview of your topic. Print and digital format.

RCC Library Catalog

SOU Library Catalog with delivery to any campus

FirstSearch/WorldCat with delivery through Interlibrary Loan

Magazines and Journals

Popular Articles (Magazines)

Are often written by journalists for a general audience
Use language easily understood by general readers
Rarely give full citations for sources
Tend to be shorter than journal articles

Scholarly Articles (Journals)

Are written by and for researchers or scholars and may use scholarly or technical language
Tend to be longer articles about research and include full citations for sources
Are often refereed or peer reviewed (articles are reviewed by an editor and other specialists before being accepted for publication)

EBSCOhost - Select from 25+ research databases and includes citations, abstracts, and full-text articles

EBSCOHost: Basic Searching

Use the basic search screen for searching for single words and phrases. EBSCOhost provides numerous ways of narrowing and limiting results and you will be able to access these after your initial search.

Depending on your search, you will want to limit your results by such criteria as:

- Publication date/year (important for retrieving current information)
- Peer reviewed (to limit to scholarly, refereed journal literature)
- Publication type (journal article, trade publication, book, etc.)

If your result set is too small, or you are unsure of search vocabulary you can change modes in your search options to expand results to related words, full text search of articles or SmartText.

If the article you need is not available Full Text online thru EBSCOhost request a copy of the article through the Interlibrary Loan link.

Other Databases

LexisNexis Academic
Opposing Viewpoints
CQ Researcher
Criminal Justice Periodicals
SODA (Database Southern Oregon Digital Archive)
....and many more

Citing Your Sources

It is important to carefully cite sources of information you've used. Library databases provide citation documentation for this purpose. The KnightCite Citation Generator can be a help in formatting and producing APA citations. The OWL at Purdue has accurate citation information.

Getting Additional Help

Library staff are here to help you throughout your research project.
Contact Mary Pierce (541)956-7151 mpierce@roguecc.edu